

FINAL REPORT
OF THE
INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL GROUP RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

November, 2012

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2012

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INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL GROUP RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES

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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

I. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

In Legislative Council Resolution 12-01 (from P. L. 125-2012 (SEA 257-2012)), the Legislative Council charged the Committee with studying the following:

Policies and procedures concerning the issuance of special group recognition license plates.

II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY

Current Indiana law establishes special group recognition license plates in general in IC 9-18-25. Other special group recognition license plates are established under:

- IC 9-18-29 (Environmental License Plates)
- IC 9-18-30 (Kids First Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-31 (Education License Plates)
- IC 9-18-32.2 (Drug Free Indiana Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-33 (Indiana FFA Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-34 (Indiana Firefighter License Plates)
- IC 9-18-35 (Indiana Food Bank Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-36 (Indiana Girl Scouts Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-37 (Indiana Boy Scouts Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-38 (Indiana Retired Armed Forces Member License Plates)
- IC 9-18-39 (Indiana Antique Car Museum Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-40 (D.A.R.E. Indiana Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-41 (Indiana Arts Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-42 (Indiana Health Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-43 (Indiana Mental Health Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-44 (Indiana Native American Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-45 (Safety First License Plates)
- IC 9-18-46.2 (Indiana State Educational Institution Trust License Plates)
- IC 9-18-47 (Lewis and Clark Bicentennial License Plates)
- IC 9-18-48 (Riley Children's Foundation License Plates)
- IC 9-18-49 (National Football League Franchised Professional Football Team License Plates)
- IC 9-18-53 (Earlham College Trust License Plates)

III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met once, on September 5, 2012, in Room 130 of the Indiana State House, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee testimony was focused on three topics:

(1) whether it is a legitimate role of the state to raise funding for not-for-profit

- organizations through the sale of special group recognition license plates;
- (2) if the answer to question (1) is yes, what is the responsibility of the state to its citizens and specifically to citizens who purchase special group recognition license plates; and
- (3) whether the state has adequate resources to fulfill its responsibility under question (2);

and, if a speaker believed that there are specific policies and procedures regarding special group recognition license plates (hereinafter plates) that can be addressed legislatively, those should have been addressed in the presentation.

Anne Tiegen of the National Council of State Legislatures (appearing via Skype) presented information about plates around the country. Joyce Brinkman, legislative sponsor of the first special group plate in Indiana, believed that funds from the plates should only be raised for activities that are within the appropriate scope of state government's duty. Elizabeth Murphy of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles spoke regarding the administrative issuance of the plates. Nancy Tibbitt of Bicycle Indiana compared funds raised for not-for-profit groups through plates to the funds raised through the Indiana State Employees Community campaign.

Karen Bohn and Bill Barks of the Greenways Foundation believed that it is a legitimate role of the state to raise funding for not-for profit groups. Charles Hyde of the Indianapolis Zoo thought that the plate program has great power to do good for the state and the not-for-profit organizations. Lynn Dennis, Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, stated that her organization has no plate but supports the environmental plate.

Leo Blackwell of the Fraternal Order of Police and Tony Murray of the Professional Firefighters of Indiana believed that the relationship between the state and the not-for-profit groups is the same as the reliance on other public/private partnerships in the Indiana Code. Ron Coleman of the Indiana Patriot Guard Riders does not believe that it is the state's responsibility to provide fundraising for not-for-profit groups, but the process is highly scrutinized and results in a mutually beneficial relationship. Gina Lefron, Habitat for Humanity of Indiana, believes that the funds raised due to public/private partnerships increase awareness.

V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made no findings of fact or recommendations.

The complete minutes of the Committee are found at
<http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/icgr.html>

WITNESS LIST

Anne Tiegen, Senior Policy Specialist, National Council of State Legislatures
Joyce Brinkman, former Member of the Indiana House of Representatives and former Treasurer of State
Elizabeth Murphy, General Counsel, Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Nancy Tibbett, Executive Director, Bicycle Indiana
Karen Bohn, Vice President, Greenways Foundation
Bill Barks, Treasurer, Greenways Foundation
Charles Hyde, Director of Membership, Indianapolis Zoo
Lynn Dennis, Director of Governmental Relations, Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
Leo Blackwell, representing Fraternal Order of Police
Tony Murray, District Vice President, Professional Firefighters of Indiana
Ron Coleman, State Captain, Indiana Patriot Guard Riders
Gina Lefron, State Director, Habitat for Humanity of Indiana